

THE SEAFARER

& Other Anglo-Saxon Lyrics

British Literature

LYRIC POETRY

- **Lyric poem:** expresses the thoughts & feelings of a single speaker
- usually retells events in the speaker's life

ELEGIAIC POETRY (ELEGY)

- **Elegy:** mourns the loss of someone or something

COMMON THEMES

- **Exile:** to be forced to leave one's home
- Loss/Hardship

LITERARY DEVICES

- **Rhythm:** lines usually have 4 strong beats
- **Kenning:** two-word metaphorical name
- **Caesura:** rhythmic break in a line, where the reader could pause for a breath
- **Alliteration:** the repetition of beginning consonant sounds in accented syllables
 - Ex) **r**aving **r**abbids
- **Assonance:** the repetition of vowel sounds in unrhymed, stressed syllables
 - Ex) ba**a**tt**a**tt**a**rt

"The Seafarer"

- **Speaker=lonely seafarer** who "drowns in desolation" at sea, but returns to it again & again
- **exile=life itself is exile;** the only home is heaven
- **elegy for the past**

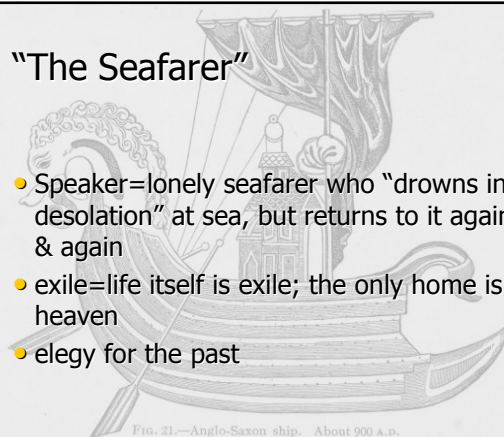


FIG. 21.—Anglo-Saxon ship. About 900 A.D.

